

**Draft Summary of the Engineering and Operations Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
December 19, 2003**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted the Engineering and Operations Work Group (EOWG) meeting on December 19, 2003 via videoconference between the Oroville Field Division, the Resources Building in Sacramento, and the San Joaquin Field Division.

A summary of the discussions, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present an informational summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following attachments are provided with this summary:

Attachment 1 Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2 Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3 Engineering and Operations Work Group Resource Action Matrix
Attachment 4 Summary of Potential Sensitivity Analyses

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the EOWG meeting. The meeting agenda and desired outcomes were reviewed. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees and their affiliations are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively.

October 31, 2003 Meeting Summary and Action Items

A summary of the October 31, 2003 EOWG is posted on the relicensing web site. The EOWG reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

Action Item EO#93:	Provide inflow hydrograph for PMF study to EOWG.
Status:	Ted Alvarez (DWR) reported that Lori Brown (DWR) sent out the information and that they have received one comment on it. Butte County did not receive the file and an extra copy was sent.
Action Item EO#94:	Distribute copies of letter from Ralph Torres to Yuba/Feather Workgroup describing activities by DWR to address flood control concerns.
Status:	Curtis Creel (DWR) noted the letter states that flood issues would be handled outside of relicensing. A follow-up letter, also provided, described the current Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) flood operations analysis.
Action Item EO#95:	Develop a chart showing the information expected to be included in E4 report and information expected from other activities outside of relicensing.
Status:	The chart was distributed to the EOWG in advance of the meeting: see summary of discussion below.
Action Item EO#96:	Combine proposed resource actions #EO5 and EO6.
Status:	These resource actions have been combined.
Action Item EO#97:	Provide examples of oversight committees designed for other relicensings.
Status:	This information was distributed in advance of the EOWG. Several examples were provided and the EOWG discussed the approach taken upstream of the Oroville Project by another licensee. The Facilitator described the issue-specific meetings being considered and how the timing and frequency is tied to particular triggers or review cycles associated with a particular resource. Curtis Creel supported the creation of a technical review team, but noted that there is no need to establish this immediately. Michael Pierce indicated that this resource action is important to Butte County. He requested some mention of an agreement to create a record of the

promises and the Facilitator pointed out that settlement agreements typically include details of specific agreements made and language that describes a process for dispute resolution.

Action Item EO#98: Confirm transfer to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group of Watershed Management PM&E submitted by Butte County.

Status: Curtis Creel reported that the transfer occurred and the Facilitator added that the LUWG included the RA in their presentation to the Plenary Group this month. The RA is on their Settlement Issue list since it involves a number of land management agencies and private lands that FERC has no jurisdiction over. Curtis noted that DWR has worked on a model that might prove useful and could provide assistance to some joint entity to consider watershed issues.

Action Item EO#99: Provide copies of resource action information forms not previously distributed and identify technical contacts and expected study completion dates on matrix.

Status: Lori has revised the matrix to reflect the information requested and the copies will be distributed after the meeting.

Action Item EO#100: Include priority column on Summary of Potential Sensitivity Analyses chart.

Status: The chart will be distributed after the meeting.

Resource Actions Matrix Review

Curtis suggested that the review and discussion be rescheduled for the next EOWG after the participants have had an opportunity to review the latest version.

Summary of Study Plan E4 Activities

A Summary of Study Plan E4 Activities matrix (Attachment 3) was distributed in advance of the meeting and Curtis led a discussion of the information included. Curtis described the general layout of the summary matrix, organized by study plan general approach and individual study plan tasks. Regarding downstream levee stability, he explained that the levees are maintained to a specific standard, and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has a program of levee evaluation, and it is currently going on in both the Sacramento and Feather rivers. This may change the rating of the levees since the current results have not been released. He also described a FEMA study evaluating the integrity of the levees. Curtis reported that DWR expects to complete the studies on storm precipitation by July 2004.

The inundation studies for FEMA maps have been completed for the Feather River from Oroville Dam to the confluence with the Yuba River. Target delivery date is February 2004. Studies extending to the confluence with the Sacramento River are ongoing, with a tentative completion date of July 2004. Review of the EAP has been completed and should be available in February. A report to operators is expected in mid-Summer 2004.

Structural modifications to the Oroville Facilities are not being studied because none are currently contemplated for the new license application, however, additional flood consideration will be analyzed in coordination with ACE and Yuba County Water Agency. Curtis noted that DWR has hired a consultant to assist in a thorough flood operations assessment. The EOWG briefly discussed several structural actions suggested earlier in the process, including a fitting over the un-gated spillway for use during flood events that had since been abandoned.

The EOWG discussed the potential effects of modifications to ramping rates. Curtis described the role ramping criteria plays in downstream flood control and suggested a focused task force meeting with the Environmental Work Group (EWG) is appropriate to discuss potential environmental effects from changes to ramping criteria.

Curtis reported that DWR is evaluating the potential to provide additional flood space in the Afterbay. Results of that evaluation should be available in summer 2004. Several participants were concerned about closing the discussion on flood control unless new structures are built.

Modeling Scenario Update

Terry Mills asked Curtis to set up a temperature/flow task force between the EWG and the EOWG to discuss cross- resource RAs and refine modeling parameters. The task force meeting was scheduled for January 21, 2004 with the location to be determined. An additional meeting was scheduled for February 9, 2004 at SWRI's Sacramento office.

Curtis notified the EOWG that the next Operations Modeling Workshop would be held February 10, 2004. However, after some discussion regarding schedule conflicts, Curtis suggested moving the date to Wednesday, February 11, 2004. A notice confirming the date and location will be distributed well in advance of the meeting.

Next Steps

The EOWG agreed to set its next meeting as a conference call from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on January 30, 2004 to discuss specific issues related to the resource action matrix and receive an update on modeling activities. The next EOWG meeting is scheduled for:

Date: January 30, 2004
Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Location: Teleconference

Action Items

The following action items were identified by the EOWG and includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and due date.

Action Item EO#101: Convene a cross resource task force with the EWG to discuss RAs and refine modeling input.
Responsible: DWR
Due Date: January 21, 2004

Carry Over:
Action Item EO#99: Provide copies of resource action information forms not previously distributed and identify technical contacts and expected study completion dates on matrix.
Responsible: DWR
Due Date: January 30, 2004

Action Item EO#100: Include priority column on Summary of Potential Sensitivity Analysis chart.
Responsible: DWR
Due Date: January 30, 2004